MINIMALLY INVASIVE METHOD FOR IMPLANTING A SACRAL STIMULATION LEAD

CROSS REFERENCE

This disclosure is related to the following copending application entitled "Minimally Invasive Surgical Techniques For Implanting Devices That Deliver Stimulation To The Nervous System" by inventors Gerber et al. (Application No. 09/489,544; filed January 31, 2000), which is not admitted as prior art with respect to the present disclosure by its mention in this cross reference section.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This disclosure relates to a method for surgically implanting an electric neurostimulation lead in the human sacrum.

The medical device industry produces a wide variety of electronic and mechanical devices for treating patient medical conditions. Depending upon the medical condition, medical devices can be surgically implanted or connected externally to a patient receiving treatment. Clinicians use medical devices alone or in combination with drug therapies and surgery to treat patient medical conditions. For some medical conditions, medical devices provide the best, and sometimes the only, therapy to restore an individual to a more healthful condition and a fuller life. Conditions that medical devices can effectively treat include pelvic floor disorders.

Pelvic floor disorders adversely affect the health and quality of life of millions of people. Pelvic floor disorders include urinary control disorders such as urge incontinency, urge frequency, voiding efficiency, fecal control disorders, sexual dysfunction, and pelvic pain. Individuals with urinary control disorders often face debilitating challenges in their everyday